

adding reserves of 178.19 Million Tonnes of Oil+oil equivalent of Gas (MMTOE).

The expenditure on exploration incurred by these companies during the above mentioned three years has been about Rs. 5342 crores.

(d) The prospects of substantial growth in domestic oil production will depend upon the degree of success of various steps being taken to increase the production as given hereunder:—

(i) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as:

- Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.
- Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.
- Increased private participation in exploration and production activities.

(ii) Faster development of newly discovered oilfields.

(iii) Optimizing production from existing field by better reservoir management through 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling; better pressure maintenance by redistributing water injector, installation/optimization of artificial lift system and use of advanced & cost effective technologies for sand control, water shut off etc.

Petrol pumps and LPG dealerships to SCs/STs

2412. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG dealerships allotted to SCs/STs during the last three years, till date, State-wise and Year-wise;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey so as to see whether these allotted agencies are being run by the candidates by themselves or on the Power of Attorney basis;

(c) the number of such agencies being run on Power of Attorney basis; and

(d) the legal sanctity behind the running of the petrol pumps and LPG dealerships on the Power of Attorney basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The year-wise number of retail outlet (RO) dealerships and LPG distributorships allotted to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and April to July, 2000 is given below:—

Year	No. of RO Dealerships allotted to SCs/STs	No. of LPG distributorships allotted to SCs/STs
1997-98	5	10
1998-99	45	48
1999-2000	58	117
April-July, 2000	—	3

The Government have not conducted any such survey.

As per the provision of the Dealership Agreement between the oil companies and the dealers/distributors, the operation of dealerships/distributorships on power of attorney basis is not permitted.

Inquiry report on fire accident at HPCL, Visakh refinery

2413. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the report of the Justice S.C. Jain Commission of Inquiry on fire incident at HPCL, Visakh Refinery on 14th September, 1997 five lapses were identified;

(b) whether action was taken on only one lapse on the part of two operators;

(c) whether no action was taken on other lapses identified by the Commission;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and